



Understanding Intersections, Shaping Interventions - GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND STUDENT / YOUTH WELL-BEING

11TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
of the Women's and Gender Studies Association of the Philippines (WSAP)

NOVEMBER 18 - 19, 2019 | Miriam College, Quezon City

Women's and Gender Studies Association of the Philippines (WSAP)

**Understanding Intersections, Shaping Interventions –
Gender, Sexuality, and Student/Youth Well-being**

November 18-19, 2019 | ESI Conference Room, Miriam College, Quezon City

The 11th National Conference of the Women's and Gender Studies Association of the Philippines (WSAP) with the theme "Understanding Intersections, Shaping Interventions – Gender, Sexuality, and Student Well-Being" was held on 18-19 November 2019 at Miriam College, Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. An estimated 118 members of the academe, non-profit organizations, local and national government agencies, feminist organizations, youth organizations, and civil society organizations from varied regions of the country were in attendance. The 11th National Conference was hosted by Miriam College-Women and Gender Institute (MC-WAGI).

DAY 1

Dr. Jasmin Galace, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Miriam College, expressed gratitude to the Women's and Gender Studies Association of the Philippines (WSAP) for taking up an important theme on young people's well-being, allowing academic communities to further deepen understanding of the youth, and sharpen interventions towards youth development.

"Here at Miriam College, student well-being is a top priority."

-Jasmin Nario-Galace, Ph.D. Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Miriam College



She then commended Miriam College - Women and Gender Institute (WAGI) for its contributions to women's empowerment and its in-depth understanding of gender issues that affect the youth today.

Keynote Speaker

Due to her tight schedule at the Senate on the day of the WSAP conference, Sen. Hontiveros was not physically available to present her keynote address. She had sent a video presentation of her keynote speech instead.

Senator Risa Hontiveros shared her office's work on diversity issues, women's rights, gender issues, and the well-being of girls and the LGBTQ+ community. She highlighted the victories achieved such as amending old bills and creating new laws promoting the rights of women and girls. The advancement of women and girls is at the forefront of her agenda in the Senate.

The important issues that need much attention, according to Senator Hontiveros, are the need to keep girls in their schools/universities and making sure they have access to healthcare. She called on women and gender institutions to stand vigilant in making sure girls have access to basic healthcare and education.

"We need to keep our girls in school."

**- Senator Risa Hontiveros
Senate of the Philippines**



Introduction to Plenary I: Vatican Reflections on Gender Theory in Education: A Feminist Critique

Dr. Socorro Reyes discussed the Feminist Critiques on the Vatican's Reflections on Gender and Education. The Vatican argues that "social differences constitute human identity" and that "male and female sexual difference shows the necessary conditions for procreation."

According to Dr. Reyes, the idea that a person's sex is determined by their anatomy is not true. She

stressed that the Vatican document puts students at risk of becoming targets of disapproval. According to her, sexual orientation and gender identity are discovered through lived experiences and that gender identity is one's innermost concept of self as male or female or a blend of both or neither. Sexual orientation, according to the critique, is a person's complex relationship between the body, identity, and expression. She added that,

"Schools, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, as one of the agents of socialization, should preach inclusiveness rather than divisiveness."

- Socorro Reyes, Ph.D.

WAGI Associate and Center for Legislative Development



Plenary I: Student Leaders of Catholic Schools for Women's Empowerment and Gender Diversity

Moderator: Brenda Pureza

Miriam College - Women and Gender Institute (WAGI)

Ms. Pureza moderated the plenary session on Catholic Schools for Women's Empowerment and Gender Diversity with student leaders from De La Salle University, Ateneo de Manila University, Miriam College, and St. Scholastica's College.

"With the previous presentation of the Vatican document and its different perceptions, one of the questions I would like to ask is: where is the youth perspective in this issue? How do the young people respond in the dialogue?"

- Brenda Pureza

Miriam College Women and Gender Institute (WAGI)



Maegan Ragudo, a student leader from De La Salle University (DLSU)-Manila, shared that her university is currently drafting their school's gender constitution and safe spaces act. The long-term goal of DLSU is to foster safe spaces for all.

On the national level, Ms. Ragudo expressed her observation that the Philippines lacks understanding especially when it comes to the LGBT community.

"The challenge to us is to create a safe space. Where do we begin? We start by engaging. We initiate dialogue. We remove barriers."

- Maegan Ragudo

Majority Floor Leader of the Legislative Assembly, University Student Government, De La Salle University



As a closing, Ms. Ragudo expressed the need for acceptance, not just tolerance. She said that it's time to undo decades of prejudice and discrimination against those who society thinks do not fit in the box.

Ms. Arianna Sunga from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) likewise said that ADMU is initiating efforts against sexual misconduct and violence within the school campus. She also introduced one of their projects called *Hilab, Hilom, Halinban* or HHH. Its goal is to raise awareness and prevent sexual harassment on campus.

"I believe that that's what it takes to empower people to come forward: to let them know that there are people who care and are willing to listen."

-Arianna Sunga

Head of Commission on Anti-Sexual Misconduct and Violence, Sanggunian ng mga Mag-aaral ng mga Paaralang Loyola ng Ateneo de Manila University



Ms. Bernadette Gadon from Miriam College stressed that the Youth can be the one who can change the world, but only when you let them have their identity.

Ms. Gadon said that Miriam College (MC) "fights for equality." MC has also been known for being part of the fight for gender equality in the country and teaches its students to be accepting of any gender.

"When times get tough, it made me realize that amidst all the bad, there are people who show care and concern."

-Bernadette Therese Gadon

External Vice President, Sanggunian ng mga Mag-aaral ng Miriam College



Lastly, she stated that the youth nowadays have the drive to say what they want and to fight for what they believe in and she believes that her institution, Miriam College, fights for that change.

Andrea Negales from the College Student Council of St. Scholastica's College (SSC) shared that her school advocates for gender fairness and equality, care for the environment, and poverty alleviation.

She then stressed that the SOGIE Bill is an issue that is very much discussed and debated in SSC. She believes that the SOGIE Equality Bill is a step forward to ensure equality and to remove gender-based discrimination.

"All of us are imbued with passion to serve, to commit to truth and justice. Inequality and unfairness are not part of the institution in all aspects."

-Andrea Louise Nagales

College Student Council, St. Scholastica's College Manila



She highlighted how her institution advocates for gender fairness and equality and how they have learned to respect and accept differences among individuals.

Conference participants went for lunch after the first plenary session. They then proceeded to their choice of parallel session/s in the afternoon.

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Four parallel sessions were held after lunch. The conference participants filled in all four rooms to full capacity, as follow:

SESSION A: Non-conforming Sexualities

Ganito Kami Noon, Ganito Pa Rin Ba Ngayon? What discriminatory practices have changed/not changed as experienced by Older/Tiguwang Lesbians in Davao City, Mindanao)

Gina Rose L. Chan and Dr. Raymundo Pavo
University of the Philippine Center for Women's and Gender Studies and University of the Philippines—Mindanao

The first speaker in Parallel Session A entitled, Non-Confirming Sexualities, were Ms. Gina Rose L. Chan and Raymundo Pavo. Their presentation entitled, *Ganito Kami Noon, Ganito Pa Rin Ba Ngayon?* discussed the spaces and points of discrimination of older lesbians when they were young adults during the 1960s-1970s up to the present.

According to Ms. Chan and Dr. Pavo, the profiles of the seven lesbians (aged 50-59) in their research were diverse. One participant of the study says she stopped studying because of the school rule that says girls should wear skirts, which she refused to follow. Another participant shared that she separated from her family because her family does not accept her being a lesbian. Ms. Chan and Dr. Pavo also presented that some of the participants were well off and others weren't.

Their research concluded that the lesbian youth today still face the same challenges. At home,

lesbians were either tolerated, or rejected. In school, most lesbians today still have problems following the school uniform of wearing a blouse and a skirt. Lastly, when it comes to work, the researchers found out that lesbians are still judged based on who they are as a person, and not on the quality of their work.

Sino ang Trans Pinoy? A Baseline Survey on the Experiences of Filipino Transgender Men in the Philippines

The study was funded by the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights (RFSL) and used mixed method study to be able to get an accurate result. Fifty (50) percent of the respondents were from National Capital Region (NCR) and majority of them said that they have a significant other.

Mx. James Montilla Doble said that Trans Pinoys in the survey are diverse. In terms of gender expression, majority is masculine, but some would say that they are androgynous, and some would even consider themselves as feminine.

Transgender are people who underwent social transitioning in which they use gender-affirming clothing and this transition can also be seen in their behaviors. Some also undergo medical transitioning. When asked about the relation between the mental health and suicide among the trans people, Mx Doble said:

"The thing about trans people and mental suicide is that it is very common when they experience stigma and trauma. They don't have depression because they are trans, they have depression because the society does not accept them as transgender which makes them vulnerable to suicide."

-James Montilla Doble
University of the Philippines Diliman



SESSION B- Let's Talk Consent, Baby! The Ateneo Gender Hub Experience

Dr. Ofreneo and Ms. Angelique Villasanta from the Ateneo de Manila University shared the experience of the Loyola Schools Gender Hub which, in their first 100 days have already received 14 cases, had 8 safe space conversations, 11 workshops implemented, and have reached 900+ people.

At this session, they talked about consent and its two types: 1) the capacity to express consent and 2) the expression of consent. The former is the consent that is given when not intoxicated, drugged, or unconscious, while the latter is asking for consent (“Do you want to do it?”) and giving consent (“yes”). The speakers emphasized on the importance of practicing how to ask and how to give consent.

“If you don’t know how to go on with the conversation where it would lead to a mutuality, then just leave the conversation.”

“It’s not just ‘no’ that is not consent, it is everything else that is not a ‘yes’.”

- Mira Ofreneo, Ph.D.
Ateneo de Manila University



SESSION C: *Kaya Natin I-flex!*

Ms. Peachy Luque from Miriam College Middle School talked about Grab’s recent marketing ad that references the controversy between local celebrities: Gerald Anderson, Julia Baretto, and Bea Alonzo. The caption of Grab’s ad was a picture collage of 6 different actresses with the caption, “*Walang kailangan mainan. Walang kailangan masaktan. Sa GrabCar 6-Seater, pwedeng magsabay-sabay.*” The participants agreed that the ad objectifies women.

The session discussed identities in the real world and the digital world, the websites that could be potentially harmful for a child, and the “tweets” that are funny but discriminatory to women. The participants also talked about how to combat cyberbullying and the spread of hateful posts. Ms. Luque also made this urgent call,

“As adults, we need to be very critical about the things we see online because as we know our theme is young people in the digital age. What would happen if netizens are not vigilant enough to pay attention to this ad? It really creates a negative impression of women and relationships.”

- Peachy Luque and Mary Grace R. Dino
Miriam College Middle School



SESSION D: Counselling Café

Facilitated by Ms. Carmela Arreola and Ma. Elenita De La Santa, both from Miriam College Lower School, the workshop was divided into two groups based on the gender issue that is highly relevant to the participants and discuss the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges in addressing them.

Group 1 discussed the effects of gender issues on student's mental health. One of the positive effects is the availability of guidance counselors; however, the negative effect is that these counselors have limited training and some of them are not licensed. One issue also is the lack of the administration's support.

Group 2 focused on the discriminatory school policies that stigmatize LGBT students. While gender awareness of the school administrator or teacher is important, the lack of resources and facilities hinder them from effectively resolving existing issues and concerns of the students. Ambiguous school policies also do not help in fighting stigma. Due to this, students resort to venting over social media instead of reporting to concerned offices. The facilitators underscored the importance of seeking help from peers as well:

"The best people to counsel will be the very same people who are going through the same journey."

-Carmela Arreola

Miriam College Lower School



After the parallel sessions, snacks followed. The conference participants re-convened at the ESI Conference Room to give way to the welcome message of the president of Miriam College who was introduced by Prof. Aurora de Dios of Miriam College- Women and Gender Institute (MC-WAGI).

Message from the Miriam College President

Amb. Laura Quiambao-Del Rosario opened her message by sharing a story that happened 50 years ago about a same sex couple who were accepted and treated normally by the people around them. She then raised the question: "Is there still really a gender problem today? Should men now be the ones who should be educated?" She said that what gender advocates have started in 1975 is not moving forward.

She then shared another story about how women in Africa undergo genital mutilation before they can get married. She stressed how women in that part of the world need to change to what society dictates them to be before they can be "liked" by the opposite sex. There is also an issue of rape as a weapon of war.

"Rape is the biggest crime you can commit to a woman."

- Amb. Laura Quiambao-Del Rosario

President, Miriam College



Lastly, Amb. Del Rosario shared a light banter about how women can now invite men on a date and pay for dinner. She ended by saying: "We invite. We pay. Shut up."

Day One concluded with yet another substantive second plenary session this time on Gender Mainstreaming in Higher Education Institutions.

PLENARY II: Gender Mainstreaming in Higher Education Institutions: Gains and Challenges

Moderator: Natsy Africa-Verceles, DSD, University of the Philippines - Center for Women and Gender Studies

Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Points

Eden Beltran, Ph.D., President Ramon Magsaysay State University

Pilipinas Ma. D. Jareno, Ph.D., Central Philippines State University

Rosalyn Echem, Ph.D., Western Mindanao State University

Maria Elissa Lao, Ph.D., Ateneo De Manila University

Rachel Laureano, Ph.D., Bataan Peninsula State University

Praksis Miranda, Ph.D., Philippine Normal University

Dr. Eden Beltran from the President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU) said that her university uses the law as their basis for creating their gender programs. She discussed that they have a framework on Gender Mainstreaming (GM) in her university. The GM was created based on an international gender equality policy and on an official framework of the Philippine government.



Eden Beltran, Ph.D.

President Ramon Magsaysay State University

PRMSU deems Gender and Development (GAD) policies and building GAD champions as its top priorities. However, with the limited budget that the GAD Program receives, Dr. Beltran emphasized that there is a sore need to raise more funds.

Dr. Pilipinas Jareno from the Central Philippine State University (CPSU) presented her university's goal to provide efficient, quality, technology-driven, and gender-sensitive products and services.

Being the GAD focal point of her university, she came up with the “#WomenMakeChange” campaign that aims to promote a violence against women (VAW)-free environment.



Pilipinas Ma. Jareno, Ph.D.

Central Philippine State University

Dr. Jareno then shared the different programs of their GAD centers such as gender sensitivity trainings (GST), a GAD scholarship program, and a safe space for gender-based violence in the campus. She also mentioned that besides women empowerment, they also want to focus on mental health issues because of the rising number of suicide cases in their province.

Lastly, she hopes to continue their programs despite the budget constraints. She said that budget problems will not hinder them from fighting for a good cause.

Ms. Rosalyn Echem, the GAD focal point of Western Mindanao State University (WMSU), shared that the Gender Research and Research Center (GRRC) of WMSU is recognized as one of the gender resource centers in Western Mindanao by the Philippine Commission on Women that capacitates NGAs, Academe, NGOs, and AFPs on GAD and Research on women and gender issues. She also shared that they were able to include Implementing Rules and Regulations on an anti-sexual harassment policy in its very own university code and produced their own University GAD code.



Associate Professor Rosalyn Echem
Western Mindanao State University

Ms. Echem also highlighted the ongoing and future campaigns of their university, one of which is their own 18-day campaign to end violence against women (VAW) entitled “HUSTUYA,” which is a Chavacano word for “stop.” Ms. Echem also shared the many roles Western Mindanao State University played to capacitate women and girls in times of war and conflict.

Lastly, Ms. Echem talked about the challenges their GAD office are facing today, such as: sexual harassment cases, breaking the stereotype of “male and female designated courses,” and making sure that new professors and employees take into heart the gender advocacy.

Dr. Maria Elissa Lao of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) shared the Gender and Development (GAD) experience of ADMU. She started by stating that the imagery of Ateneo is very male centered—such as being known as the university of Jose Rizal, a university that was established by Jesuit priests, and a university that exclusively enrolled boys and young men.



Maria Elissa Lao, Ph.D.
Ateneo De Manila University

Dr. Lao shared that one of the latest “big changes” Ateneo made was when it opened its doors to women in their newly opened Senior High school unit. Now, males and females are about the same number in the university. Dr. Lao then introduced the Loyola Schools Gender Hub, established last year. The Gender Hub is tasked to develop and coordinate gender responsive procedures and standards inside The Ateneo. Dr. Lao then shared about the current climate inside ADMU. In the last couple of weeks, there have been a number of reports on sexual harassment in the university in which a lot of Ateneans protested against, both online and offline. She said that students should have the opportunity to voice dissent and call for reform when need be.

Dr. Rachel Laureano is the dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU). She opened her presentation by mentioning the university’s extension project with DepEd Schools Division Office of Bataan that aims to enhance the psychological well-being of grade school students in the province. They also aim to create more safe spaces within the university.



Rachel Laureano, Ph.D.
Bataan Peninsula State University

Dr. Laureano also highlighted one of the goals of their university: to look for high impact linkages that would strengthen gender equality. Ms. Laureano wishes to implement programs on prevention of VAW, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination.

Dr. Praksis Miranda from the Philippine Normal University (PNU) introduced her university as the center for teacher education. She sees teacher education research as an essential element and as the basis of GAD policies.



Praksis Miranda, Ph.D.
Philippine Normal University

Dr. Miranda stressed that advocates should democratize women's month by prioritizing the marginalized women. For her, it's time to bring women's month into the grassroots.

She also suggested that advocates should think of how one can use the GAD funds to create an extension program that can benefit everyone.

DAY 2

Day two opened with the second keynote speech of the conference this time by Dr. Michael Tan, Chancellor of the University of the Philippines-Diliman at the time.

Keynote Speaker

"My father was a good man but he would have been a better man if he listened to my mother and to women."

"Men can be the strongest, the most powerful if we were more like women in telling stories and in listening."

- Michael Tan, DVM, Ph.D.

University of the Philippines, Diliman



Dr. Michael Tan opened his keynote speech by sharing stories about the women whom he believes greatly influenced his life. He stressed how society views "patriarchy" as the "hierarchy", and how this brought not just physical violence but also emotional violence to women, leaving them voiceless.

He then encouraged the women in the room to tell their stories more often and to be more like their mothers. He also encouraged mothers to talk more to their sons and sisters to talk more to their brothers.

He also called on family members to teach each other the goodness of talking and urged everyone to initiate frank and direct conversations about

gender and sexuality, including intimate stories because people tend to censor themselves.

Lastly, he stressed that the goal in dealing with gender and sexuality as Filipinos should not just focus on “*pagkakaintindi*” (comprehension) but on “*pagkakaunawa*” (understanding) as well.

The third plenary session followed after morning snacks.

PLENARY III: Psychosocial Support Challenges and Responses

Moderator: Mira Ofreneo, Ph.D., Ateneo de Manila University

Speakers

Ms. Carmela Arreola, Guidance Counselor
Miriam College Lower School

Ms. Yeng Gatchalian, Psychologist
University of Perpetual Help Systems Delta
Vern Reyes, Ph.D., Chair

Department of Psychology and Social Work
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina

Guidance Counselor Carmela Arreola started her speech by sharing Miriam College Lower School’s (MCLS) objective to develop young girls to become happy and earth-friendly learners. She then introduced her office, the MCLS Guidance Center, with their tagline: “Characters grow well with guidance.”

The MCLS Guidance Office aims to give importance to the intellectual, personal, social, emotional, and psychological growth of their students at each developmental stage. One of the strategies that the MCLS Guidance Center has is keeping track of their students once they enter Grade 1 until they finish Grade 5. This is their way to really get to know their students better. She said that social media is becoming a platform where people seek approval and support in order to feel a sense of belongingness. One of her concerns is that people will become less genuine because of social media.

“We must counter the culture of superficiality by offering authenticity.”

- Ms. Camela Arreola
Lower School, Miriam College



Psychologist Yeng Gatchalian started by explaining that one of the prevailing issues concerning gender is that parents of LGBTQ+ are more concerned with the opinions of their relatives regarding sexuality over the feelings of their own kids.

Ms. Gatchalian shared one incident when one of her patient’s parent asked her, “*Yung anak ko mahilig maglaro ng manika, eh lalaki siya, anong gagawin ko?*” (My son likes to play with dolls, what should I do?) Ms. Gatchalian said that she answered this with, “*Wala, palaruin mo, bigyan mo pa ng manika, kung gusto ng Barbie, bigyan mo ng Barbie at Ken.*” (Nothing, let him play with dolls. If he wants to play with Barbie, give him both Barbie and Ken.)

“Ang pinagdadaanan ang dapat tinututukan, hindi yung kasarian ng bata.”

-Yeng Gatchalian
University of Perpetual Help Systems Delta



Dr. Vern Reyes shared how the K-12 curriculum changed the list of offered subjects under the general education department. She mentioned that the General Psychology subject was removed in the new curriculum and how it affected the careers of many Psychology faculty members.

Dr. Vern then highlighted the reality that most LGBTQ+ students belonging in state universities such as the Pamantasan Lungsod ng Marikina (PLMAR) face when it comes to applying for a job. She further explained how the new curriculum put these students at a disadvantage. According to her,

“Gender intersectionality is not just about gender identity and gender expression, it is also about poverty.”

-Vern Reyes, Ph.D.

Pamantansan ng Lungsod ng Marikina



She proposed two interventions for the issue. First, she suggested that faculty members who used to teach General Psychology should teach a course on “Understanding the Self.” In that way, no Psychology faculty member will suffer by losing their teaching job. Second, school administrators should give equal opportunities for all students, including those who are part of the LGBT community.

Dr. Mira Ofreneo, the moderator, closed the session by calling the participants to equip themselves with basic counseling skills, especially all faculty members, considering that they could be the first responder for psychological support.

After an exciting third plenary session, conference participants proceeded to lunch to serve as a break for the next two batches of parallel sessions in the afternoon.

PARALLEL SESSIONS

SESSION A: *Tiwala, Tikom, Taksik*: Sexual Harassment in Catholic Universities

Moderated by: Eden Beltran, Ph.D., President
Ramon Magsaysay State University

Paper Presenters: Tristan Gamalinda, Frances Aguda, and Jeivi Nicdao

Ms. Jeivi Nicdao argued that sexual harassment continues to be an occupational problem. She presented studies on the impact of sexual harassment and its negative effects on the victim’s productivity and health. She stated that there is a prevailing silence when it comes to sexual harassment and that silence, in turn, perpetuates sexual harassment. The more it is not talked about, the more it pervades, the more it precludes possibilities for action.

“How can we respond, how can we change, how can we interfere with something we are not even talking about? ... How do we realize the safe spaces inside our institutions? Inside our schools or even in public?”

-Jeivi Nicdao

Loyola Schools Gender Hub, Ateneo de Manila University



Frances Aguda continued the discussion by posing the question: “How was sexual harassment in a Catholic School constructed online?” She said that it was rooted in men having uncontrolled sexual urge and the biological male sex drive.

According to her, these major discourses present a tension between the justice process and the trauma discourse and it leads to a particular question:

“Why is it so hard for victims to come forward? What makes it so difficult for victims to approach the institution and say that this is my experience of sexual harassment why is it so hard for them to claim justice?”

-Frances Aguda, Loyola Schools Gender Hub, Ateneo de Manila University



SESSION B: Young People's Experiences on Pregnancy, Prostitution, and Parenting

Moderated by: Rosalyn Echem, Ph.D., Western Mindanao State University

Papers:

An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Abortion Experiences of Female Adolescents

Presenter: Pilipinas Ma. D. Jareño, Ph.D.

Dr. Pilipinas Jareño's study focused on 15-19-year-old female adolescents who have undergone abortion. The participants of Dr. Jareño's study were asked about their initial thought after learning they were pregnant and according to her, most of them said they weren't ready because of different factors such as poverty, the reactions of their parents, and the stigma that comes with being pregnant before marriage.

The participants were left with the desperate choice for abortion without seeking professional and medical help. Dr. Jareño presented the different

experiences the participants had after undergoing abortion—stories of excessive blood loss and excruciating pain were highlighted. Some Catholic participants also felt extreme guilt after the procedure.

The participants also shared their lessons from this experience, and they described it as a tool for enhancing their inner strengths and that it made them realize that they can still look forward to their future.

“Young women who experienced abortion see it as an opportunity for growth. They know that it is wrong but they think that it was right to do it at that moment.”

- Pilipinas Ma. D. Jareño, Ph.D.

Central Philippines State University



In conclusion, this study showed that poverty is a big factor when it comes to abortion, since young women do not have the benefit of protection and health care.

The Night Market of Adam and Eve - Flesh Trading in Cabanatuan City

Presenter: Suzette Perez,

Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology

The Night Market of Adam and Eve (Male and Female prostitutes in Cabanatuan City) by Dr, Walter P. Salva and Prof. Suzette D. Perez is about how sex workers/people in prostitution look for “hook-ups.” The research focuses on the influencing factors of their services and strategies for transaction. The study also looks at the challenges that sex workers/people in prostitution encounter.

The influencing factors that came out in the study include their enjoyment for sex, their need to support their family, peer pressure, curiosity, and even homelessness. The challenges that they face as sex workers/people in prostitution range from being vulnerable to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), being associated with drugs and criminality, unfair payment and transaction, and the stigma that says sex work/prostitution is degrading work.

The study recommends that the Local Government Units (LGUs) should be consistent in raising awareness on HIV/AIDS for health and medical purposes. The LGU should also extend in giving more livelihood programs for out of school youth; and have a strict implementation of policies, identifying the location of the sex workers/people in prostitution, where police or other safety officials are within the range of their location.

Pagdalumat sa Mukha ng Single Mother na mga Iskolar ng GAD sa Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology
Presenter: Marianne De Vera, Ph.D.

A study conducted by Dr. Marianne De Vera, entitled, *Pagdamulat sa Mukha ng Single Mother na mga Iskolar ng GAD sa Nueva Ecija*, focuses on the roles of solo mothers and their experiences as a daughter, student, mother, worker and the question on who is she in the context of the Philippine society today.

In this study, they conducted a focus group discussion (FDG) and an in-depth interview with single mothers. In their sharing, they have encountered different challenges with their ex-partners, which they think have contributed to the upbringing of their children.



- Marianne De Vera, Ph.D.
Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology

They also shared their experiences as students, where they experience double or triple hardships when they come back to school because they also must help with their children's schoolwork. They then shared their experiences both as a daughter and a mother. Because their salaries are insufficient, their parents and relatives still help them support their children.

As workers, the participants shared that their inspiration is their children. Every cent for them is important because it contributes to the betterment of their children's future. The study recommends that more laws should be implemented to aid their needs as parents.

SESSION C: From Toxic Masculinity to New Masculinities
Moderated by: Rebecca Marquez
St. Scholastica's College

Papers:

Pampanguluhanang mga Biro at Patawa: Ekspresyon ng Pagiging Lalaki, Pagkalalaki, at Pagkamaginoo
Presenter: Nancy Kimuell-Gabriel

Ms. Kimuell-Gabriel started her discussion by presenting the objective of her study, which is to analyze the jokes of President Duterte that depict his manhood, masculinity, and machismo. She cited the different excuses and reasons President Duterte uses whenever he jokes about women. Duterte says that he is "only joking," "joking is part of Filipino culture," and that "no one should take his jokes

seriously.” With all the reasons Duterte mentioned, Ms. Kimuell-Gabriel highlighted that the main reason why he makes these jokes is to get the attention of the people, which makes him, according to her, a populist.

Ms. Kimuell-Gabriel said that the more popular Duterte gets, the more vulgar his jokes and banter become. He uses these jokes as instruments to connect with the people. She stressed that these jokes perpetuate lewd behavior, uncontrolled sexual urges, machismo, sexism, and misogyny.

“Ang mga patawa, parinig, at biro ay nakapagpapalakas ng umiiral na pagtingin sa pagiging lalaki, pagkalalaki at kawalan ng pagkamagino.”

-Nancy Kimuell-Gabriel

University of the Philippines- Diliman



She concluded the presentation by saying that humor is part of Filipino culture; on the other hand, it can also be an effective political strategy that can support the patriarchal, misogynistic, and even feudal system—and that there is no other way but to continuously criticize them.

Birthing Boys to Men: Literature Review on Exploring Philippine Fraternity Masculinities through Homosociality, Power, and Violence

Presenter: Reyanne Joy P. Librado

Reyanne Librado started her presentation by stressing that there aren't a lot of papers about gender and fraternities in the Philippines. According to her, there are really only few literatures about the gender gaze on frats, military academies and institutions.

She then presented 3 major questions that were raised in her research paper: How do exclusive male bonds maintain power and the desire to establish power? How do men experience power? What grants power according to hegemonic masculine standards? What role does violence play in establishing power? In men's bodies? She also discussed about men's understanding of power. She stated that:

“Men are taught that in order to gain access in the patriarchal dividend of privilege and power, one should toughen up, repress the sadness, vulnerability and pain, embody an abstraction and ideal of power.”

- Reyanne Joy P. Librado

University of the Philippines – Diliman



Homosociality and men's sexual relationships with women are also some of the topics discussed. She said that central in male homosocial sites are men's performance in their sexual relationships with women, narratives of these relationships display male bravado and status. She ended her presentation with an action point: to continue to unmask the patriarchal codes that bound boys, men, and fratmen.

Of Brothers and Men: Assessing the Impacts of Students' Notions and Experiences of Masculinities vis-à-vis Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Gender Policies

Presenter: Ara Marie Leal R. Rodriguez
Ateneo De Manila University

Ms. Ara Marie Leal R. Rodriguez opened her presentation by saying that we are all affected by masculinity, especially women. So, “why don't we talk about men? Why do we always talk about

women?” One example for her is that, when talking about sexual harassment, the questions are always curated towards the women.

Ms. Rodriguez then introduced “hegemonic masculinity” that is said to be present in society, especially in all-boys schools and universities. She stressed that men do not see the problems in their actions due to them being in positions of privilege and power. Privilege is said to be prevalent in college because most boys came from all-boys privileged schools, and that these boys lack awareness in their self-entitlement.

The results of her study showed that religion also played a big role in value formation of students, contributing to their perceptions and attitudes towards others. She recommended that there should be more discussions about gender-based violence and the sexualization of women in order to create a more safe and equal society.

Confronting Patriarchy: Bicol Women Leadership and Legacy

Presenter: Dr. Noemi Lobrigo-Ibo, Ph.D
Bicol University

Dr. Lobrigo-Ibo introduced her study by stating that the core problem of discrimination and gender stereotypes on women lies in the manner in which society perceives strength. She then presented the focus of her study—women and leadership and their capabilities as women leaders in politics.

The objective of her study is to create profiles of women in politics, their accomplishments, challenges, strategies, and implications in governance. Her study also assesses the performance of women politicians in Bicol and the evaluation of their performances in their localities.

She ended her presentation by sharing her hopes for her study to be beneficial to local government units, and to encourage other aspiring women all over the country to run for office.

SESSION D: Sexuality, Disability, and Gender-based Violence

Moderated by: Ma. Helen Dayo, Ph.D.
U.P. Los Banos

Papers:

Double Vulnerability: A Research on Contractualization and Sexual Harassment in the Public Education Sector

Presenter: Kristel May Gomez-Magdaraog
University of the Philippines—Diliman

Ms. Gomez-Magdaraog’s research seeks to analyze the relationship between contractualization and sexual harassment. Her survey showed that sexual harassment is usually manifested as green jokes, sexist language, touching/groping. There were three cases that were highlighted, namely, Elena vs. Business Administrator, Brenda vs foreign student, and Ella vs Janitor. All cases started with lewd jokes, like “You are sexy” and name-calling such as, “Su,” which is short for *Suso*.

In her analysis, she said that migration is one of the main problems. In another analysis regarding sexual harassment, one of the main problems is the power relations between the contractual workers and their supervisors, which gives workers a fear of confrontation and retaliation. They are also not aware of the fact that they have rights, which often leads to unreported cases.



Kristel May Gomez-Magdaraog
University of the Philippines—Diliman

Ms. Gomez-Magdaraog also stressed the importance of feminist counseling as survivors of harassment that need to be heard and

validated. She recommends that society must break the culture of machismo to be able to study the experience and point of view of men when it comes to sexual harassment. She then concluded that women relievers are the most vulnerable sector when it comes to sexual harassment.

Documenting the Lived Experiences of Women with Disabilities in Tahanang Walang Hagdanan

Presenter: Christelle Juin R. Ancha,
Ateneo de Manila University

Ms. Ancha's study is an ongoing research on gender mainstreaming and the needs of women with disabilities. She stated that it seeks to give recognition to women with disabilities through documentation of their lives, experiences, needs and concerns. It also aims to break social barriers that prevent them from accessing opportunities that are available to people who are not disabled. The objective of this research is to highlight the implementing policies and laws in the Philippines in light of the gender mainstreaming efforts and international laws to include women with disabilities in mainstream society.

Ms. Ancha introduced the social model of disability, which states that disability is caused by the way society is organized, not because of a person's differences. She noticed that we have a male-centered social model of disability, in a way that this social model only reflects on the agenda of men, and not so much for women. Due to this, women with disabilities may have particular disadvantages in society.

"The term PWD was defined by other people, not by the people with disabilities themselves. Disability was also defined in a limited way: as dependent, useless, and physically impaired. Who even coined the term disabled?"

- Christelle Juin R. Ancha
Ateneo de Manila University



She concluded her talk with her own impressions, as the paper is yet to be finished. First, there are incidences of gender-based violence among Women with Disabilities that are not articulated as gender-based because of heightened emphasis on their disability. Since the social model of disability is male-centered, they do not consider the women as their priority. Lastly, women with disabilities face multiple objectification based on their disability and gender. Not only are they labeled as useless or dependent, but they are also sexually harassed.

Challenges and Academic Performance of Abused Children in Nueva Ecija

Presenter: Walter P. Salva, Ph.D.
Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology

Dr. Walter P. Salva opened his presentation by stating that abused children can come from different levels of society. However, most abused children that were reported to authorities came from families in poverty. Abuse, whether physical, sexual, or verbal, would lead to development problems of the kids.

Dr. Salva presented a summary of the cases that he encountered. Sexual and physical abuses are some of the reasons that brought the children to the shelter. When asked about the challenges they face, some of their responses include being separated from their families, the struggle to adjust in their shelters, and being vulnerable to bullying. The participants mentioned that they would seek help from social workers when facing these challenges.



Walter P. Salva, Ph.D.
Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology

He concluded his presentation by recommending social workers to offer intervention for children to improve their academic skills. He also recommended that social workers should communicate with the children's teachers so that they can monitor the performance of the children. Through this, they can see how much the children have improved. For the government, he also recommended that the DSWD should provide a budget that fits the personal needs of the abused children in shelters. Lastly, he recommended that future researchers should conduct a study on this topic wherein it further elaborates on the reasons why abused children drop out from school.

After the above four parallel sessions held from 1:00-2:30 PM, another batch of parallel sessions were held at 2:30-4:00PM, as follow:

PARALLEL SESSION INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP A: Vagina Vagina Vagina!

The CEDAW Youth MC Chapter performed excerpts from the Vagina Monologue by Eve Ensler. They performed selected pieces such as, The Flood, Because He Liked to Look at It; My Angry Vagina; The Little Coochi Snorcher that Could; My Short Skirt; My Village was my Vagina; and, The Women who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy.

"My short skirt is not a legal reason to rape me."

"My short skirt has nothing to do with you."

Quotation by Eve Ensler, performed by CEDAW Youth Miriam College Chapter



After the performance, Ms. Stefani Albert, president of CEDAW Youth MC Chapter and Ms.

Kaira Valenton facilitated an open forum and conversation where they asked the audience two questions: "What makes your vagina angry?" and "What makes your vagina happy?"

Some members of the audience said that tampons, sexist remarks, and practices are what makes their vaginas angry; equality, freedom for all, and women voicing out their opinions, feelings and perspectives are what makes their vagina happy.

PARALLEL SESSION B: Engendering the Curriculum and Research: Experiences and Outcomes

A Discussion by the Philippine Commission Roundtable on Women

Dr. Rhodora Bucoy of the Philippine Commission on Women shared the purpose of the round table discussion that engendering the curriculum of universities and colleges is embedded in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Magna Carta of Women. She then asked the participants: *"Ano nga ba yung epekto ng pagtuturo natin, pag-iintegrate natin ng women and gender equality?"*

Dr. Bucoy also represented University of the Philippines-Diliman. She emphasized that it really makes a difference when we teach gender equality concepts and women's human rights concepts. She then highlighted the outcomes of her study: "There is a sharpening of the human rights discourse in our curriculum. We don't teach sex and gender in terms of social construction. We anchored it in a human rights perspective."



Participants of the Round Table Discussion conducted by the Philippine Commission on Women

Day Two concluded with a sumptuous snack and with a WSAP General Assembly at 4:30PM.

The officers and board of the Women's and Gender Studies Association of the Philippines (WSAP) thanked everyone who made the event a success: the speakers, moderators, participants, organizers, logistics personnel, and everyone who had a significant role, big and small, but made the event possible.

Dr. Helen Dayo introduced herself as the representative of University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB). In terms of research, CHED instructed UPLB to merge the national research and development agenda. These research agenda focused on water security, food and nutrition security, health sufficiency, clean energy, and sustainable communities. She said that you can always integrate issues of gender in those topics.

Lastly, Ms. Sally Domingo from the Philippine National University stated that "gender should be integrated in the curriculum not just an object of study. It's not just theoretical...it's an advocacy as well. *Paano mo siya iintegrate* if in the first place the faculty does not believe in the advocacy?" She stressed that professors would actually say that there are no issues like this anymore.

Dr. Rhodora Bucoy then asked the participants to ask questions and share their insights and experiences in their respective schools/offices. Some highlights of the open forum include the

challenge of integrating SOGIESC lessons in the curriculum, Dr. Natsy Verceles says that gender mainstreaming does not acknowledge unequal structures. She stressed that everyone should undergo this course.

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